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January 2003

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2003

For More Information Contact:
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ATTORNEY GENERAL JON BRUNING
TO JUMP IN NORTH PLATTE RIVER TO
RAISE MONEY FOR HOMELESS

North Platte, Neb.—Attorney General Jon Bruning will jump in the North Platte River on Friday, January 31st for the fifth annual Ground Hoggy Doggy Shadow Splash.

The event raises money for the Lincoln Connection homeless shelter. Last year, participants raised over \$13,000. This is Bruning's fourth year participating in the Splash.

"It's a great cause," said Bruning, who anticipates a big crowd for the event. "Come out to participate or just cheer us on. We've been lucky these last few years with above zero temperatures. But, no matter how warm it is, you know you're in for a big surprise when your body hits that icy water."

The fifth annual Ground Hoggy Doggy Shadow Splash will take place at 3:00 p.m., January 31st. The event headquarters is 225 McNeel Lane in North Platte.

-30-

GROUND HOGGY DOGGY SHADOW SPLASH

"To Benefit The Lincoln Connection Homeless Shelter"

James Paloucek

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January 14, 2004

RE: Sixth Annual Ground Hoggy Doggy Shadow Splash

Dear Friends:

It is the middle of January, and our thoughts turn to Groundhog Day. This will be the sixth year for the Ground Hoggy Doggy Shadow Splash. The upcoming Groundhog Day falls on a Monday, February 2, 2004, so, this year we will again break with tradition, and **the event will be held Friday, January 30, 2004, rather than on the actual date of Groundhog Day.** We are planning to jump in the river at approximately 3:00 p.m. If you are receiving this letter, you somehow got on our mailing list, probably because you are a past participant or someone identified you to us as a potential participant. In any event, we hope that you will join us in the South Platte River for the 2004 Shadow Splash as a part of our celebration of **Hometown Heroes Helping the Homeless.**

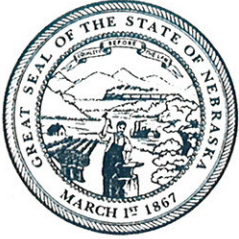
As a new twist this year, we are going to integrate some friendly competitions into the event. Awards will be given for best dressed, most money raised, oldest and youngest participants, and best activity incorporated into the act of getting wet. So, if you are 75 years old, can do back flips across the river while wearing a monkey suit, and raise \$1500.00 in donations, you stand to clean up in those competitions. Additionally, we are encouraging participants to be involved as a group or team by dressing alike or being involved in some common activity. The awards will be given on both an individual and team basis. So, if you and 10 of your friends play Frisbee football in the river while dressed in Superman costumes and you raise \$5000 in donations as a team, your team stands to clean up in the team competitions. We will be contacting some people directly to commit to putting together a team to participate, but feel free to use your imagination and develop your own group if you'd like. As always, we ask all jumpers to raise at least \$100.00 in donations to the Lincoln Connection and to bring those donations with them on the day of the jump. Our goal this year is to have 100 people participating and to raise at least \$15,000.00 for the shelter.

As always, we plan a fun time. North Platte's own Buffalo Bill Cody, aka Bruce Richman, will be making an appearance, possibly on horseback. A reception with beverages and snacks will be held following the jump. Other surprises may be in store. The week of January 30, 2004, the details about the jump and reception will be mailed to all of the people we know will be jumping. We look forward to your participation, and the participation by anyone else you can get to join in.

Thanks.

Russ Jones

Jim Paloucek



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release
January 28, 2003

Contact: Jon Bruning
(402)471-2682

Attorney General Jon Bruning Announces Proposed Settlement with Aventis Pharmaceuticals

LINCOLN- Attorney General Jon Bruning announced a proposed settlement today for \$80 million involving the popular heart medication Cardizem CD. The fifty state settlement resolves an antitrust lawsuit filed by Nebraska's attorney general and multiple other state attorneys general against Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc. ("Aventis"), Andrx Corporation ("Andrx") and affiliated entities.

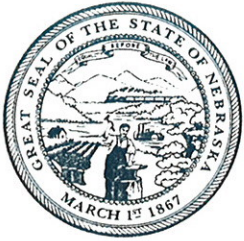
Under the settlement, the state of Nebraska will receive about \$20,000 for state agency purchases of the drug and approximately \$126,000 will be allocated out of the settlement for purchases of the drug by Nebraska consumers.

The Nebraska attorney general's office alleged that Aventis and Andrx illegally agreed that Andrx would stay off the market with a less expensive generic version of the drug Cardizem CD in return for Aventis paying Andrx nearly \$90 million. Delays in bringing the generic drug to market, the lawsuit alleged, resulted in higher prices for consumers and governmental agencies.

"The settlement should serve as a warning to the big prescription drug companies," Bruning stated. "Illegally conspiring to keep less expensive medications out of the hands of consumers won't be tolerated."

Under the settlement, Aventis and Andrx must pay \$80 million into a fund that will compensate consumers, state agencies, and insurance companies who overpaid for Cardizem CD and its generic equivalents between 1998 and January 2003. The settlement is in addition to a \$110 million settlement reached earlier between the companies and drug wholesalers involving the same alleged violations. In total, the drug companies will be required to pay over \$190 million.

The proposed settlement was filed yesterday with U.S. Federal District Court Judge Nancy Edmunds in Detroit and requires approval from the court to become effective. If approved, Attorney General Bruning will implement a claims administration process this summer for consumers who purchased Cardizem CD or its generic equivalent at any time between January of 1998 and January of 2003.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release
January 9, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
(402) 471-3888

**BRUNING TO BE SWORN IN
AS YOUNGEST ATTORNEY GENERAL IN NATION**

Attorney General-Elect Jon Bruning will be sworn in January 9th as the youngest AG in the nation and in Nebraska history. Bruning, a Nebraska native, served as a state senator for 6 years in the Nebraska Unicameral.

"I'm excited to start working toward protecting Nebraska's interests and building a safer Nebraska and protect Nebraska's interests," said Bruning. "They will be an important addition to the great talent already in place. The transition has been an incredible experience, and I'm looking forward to settling in and getting to work on behalf of all Nebraskans."



UNITED STATES SENATOR • NEBRASKA

CHUCK HAGEL

P R E S S R E L E A S E



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Contact: Beth Lee
202-224-4224

Republican Leadership Passes Extension of Unemployment Benefits

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) today supported passage of a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits to June 1. The bill will allow approximately 2,600 Nebraskan's, who lost their benefits on December 28, to regain assistance. In addition, the legislation will allow workers, who exhaust traditional state benefits over the next five months, to qualify for an additional 13-weeks of federal aid. This is the first step in the President's proposal to strengthen the economy.

"As their first order of business, the Republican leadership has made good on their commitment to provide an extension of unemployment benefits. Passing this bill was the right thing to do and needed to be done for the many Americans who need this assistance," said Hagel.



FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MIKE JOHANNIS

NEWS RELEASE

State Capitol, P.O. Box 94848, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848, Phone (402)471-2244

For Immediate Release
January 4, 2000

Contact, Chris Peterson
402-471-1967

Projects Covered Range from Manufacturing to Telecommunications **Johannis Proposal Would Boost Job Creation & Capital Investment in Rural Nebraska**

Lincoln – Governor Mike Johannis today proposed economic development legislation that would encourage job creation and investment in Nebraska's rural counties. More than 25 state legislators have already agreed to co-sponsor the Rural Economic Opportunities Act that would provide incentives for employment and investment in Nebraska's mid and small-sized counties based upon the size of the local labor force. Businesses most likely to use the tax credits would qualify by adding less than 30 employees and investing less than \$3 million in Nebraska's mid to small-sized counties.

"The Rural Economic Opportunities Act will serve as a tool for encouraging job creation and capital investment in the rural areas of Nebraska," said Governor Johannis. "This plan will encourage a wide variety of projects ranging from manufacturing to telecommunications including some small to medium sized value-added agriculture processors."

Industries that could qualify under the plan include manufacturing, warehousing, transportation, research and development, insurance, data processing, administration, or telecommunications. Examples of value-added projects that could potentially qualify under the proposal include a small meat manufacturer or a small bio-tech company.

"For the past few years I have witnessed Nebraska develop a two-track economy divided between rural and urban sectors," said Johannis. "The urban economy has experienced exceptional growth while the rural economy has struggled. My goal is to encourage economic opportunity statewide, including rural Nebraska. The Rural Economic Opportunities Act will do that with tax incentives favoring more employment and investment in mid and small-sized counties."

Governor Mike Johannis also announced that state Senator Gerald Matzke of Sidney would be the proposal's primary sponsor.

(more)